



Remedial Action at Old Roosevelt Field Contaminated Groundwater Area site

Community Update

May 2010

EPA will begin remedial action activities for contaminated groundwater at the Old Roosevelt Field Contaminated Groundwater Area Site. The remedial action will begin in early May 2010 and will be completed in Summer 2011.

Planned Activities:

- Install three extraction wells in the parking lot south of 400 Garden City Plaza
- Install three paired monitoring wells at: 1) parking lot east of 400 Garden City Plaza; 2) parking lot west of MACY's; 3) overflow parking lot south of Roosevelt Field Mall
- Conduct aquifer testing of extraction wells
- Perform geotechnical investigations for building foundation design
- Construct treatment building in the rear of Garden City Pumping Station on Garden City and Nassau County properties
- Complete yard piping for groundwater treatment system
- Install treatment system equipments and complete testing of groundwater treatment system
- Perform baseline groundwater sampling

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proceeding with the selected remedial action for groundwater at the Old Roosevelt Field Contaminated Groundwater Area site. The site is located near the Garden City Plaza office complex at the intersection of Clinton Road and Old Country Road in the Village of Garden City, New York. This fact sheet describes the scope of the remedial action being conducted to reduce volatile organic compounds (VOCs - contaminants that evaporate into the air easily) present in groundwater at the site.

After completing a remedial investigation, the EPA conducted a feasibility study to evaluate potential remedial alternatives for the Site and prepared a Record of Decision in 2007 to document the selected remedy. The selected remedy consists of groundwater extraction and treatment system, and long-term monitoring and institutional controls to limit human exposure.

SITE HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The site is a contaminated groundwater plume located along the eastern side of Clinton Road, approximately 0.2 miles south of the intersection with Old Country Road. VOCs are present in the plume at concentrations that exceed health benchmarks. Roosevelt Field was used for a variety of aviation activities from 1911 until May 1951, including Army and Navy military airfields and a commercial airfield.

Garden City public supply wells #10 and #11 were installed at what had been the southwestern corner of the airfield in 1952. The wells have shown the presence of VOCs since they were first sampled in the late 1970s and the early 1980s. An air-stripping treatment system was installed at the wells to remove VOCs from the raw water in 1987. During the 1990s, unusually high levels of VOCs in treated water samples from the treatment system indicated that the capabilities of the system had been exceeded. As a result, the treatment system on the wells has been upgraded, with each well is now treated by a dedicated air stripper. Nassau County conducts regular sampling of the treated water, and since the air stripper upgrades, the treatment system has succeeded in removing all VOCs to acceptable health levels.

EPA encourages public participation. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact:

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Hempstead Public Library
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INVESTIGATION RESULTS

The results of remedial investigation at the site indicated that current groundwater conditions pose a potential risk to human health from VOCs through ingestion of untreated groundwater. Specifically, tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) concentrations in groundwater exceed the remediation goals of 5 micrograms per liter.

Results also show that there is little evidence to indicate that a contaminant source still exists in the area of the former airfield. In addition, the highest levels of groundwater contamination are near a former cooling water discharge well between Garden City Plaza and Clinton Road.

REMEDIAL ACTION

The selected remedy from the 2007 Record of Decision consists of installation of three extraction wells, construction of a groundwater treatment system, and installation of three paired monitoring wells. Extraction wells and one pair of monitoring wells will be installed near 400 Garden City Plaza. The remaining two pairs of monitoring wells will be installed in the Roosevelt Field Mall parking lot. The ex-situ groundwater treatment system will be constructed in the rear of Garden City pumping station.

The groundwater treatment system includes bag filters and a low profile air stripper to remove suspended solids and VOCs, respectively. Air stripping is a process of forcing air through contaminated water to remove VOCs. Air stripping transfers a large amount of volatile contaminants from water to air. Contaminated groundwater will be treated to meet the New York State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit equivalent criteria prior to discharge to Nassau County Recharge Basin No. 124.

Remedial action at the site is expected to begin in May 2010 and to be completed by July 2011. The remedial action will be performed in phases. Phase 1 will include installation of extraction and monitoring wells. Phase 2 will include construction of the treatment building, installation of groundwater treatment equipment and yard piping, testing, and site restoration. Construction activities will occur during normal business hours and will comply with all local laws and regulations. Conventional engineering controls will be implemented to minimize noise, dust generation, and disturbances to local traffic.

Groundwater sampling will be conducted prior to the startup of the groundwater treatment system. Samples will be collected from all monitoring wells at the Site and will be analyzed for parameters that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment.

SUPERFUND AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Public participation is essential to the success of EPA's Superfund program. Throughout the cleanup process, EPA will provide the community with current information of site activities using a number of methods, including fact sheets, newspaper announcements, and public meetings.

